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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
/090 W
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R 071541Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2840
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0287

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MBFR
SUBJECT: MBFR: SOVIETS OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON NATO DATA

REF: 76 MOSCOW 16287

1. IN SHORT DISCUSSION OF MBFR JAN 5 WITH MFA IO DIVISION COUNSELOR, BORIS KRAUSLIN, EMBOFF ASKED WHAT SOVIET REACTION WAS TO NATO DATA TABLED IN VIENNA AT CLOSE OF LAST SESSION. KRASULIN, WITH SLIGHT SMILE, REPLIED THAT THE DATA WERE "INTERESTING" BUT WERE NOT "ACCURATE." (COMMENT: IT WAS KRASULIN WHO EARLIER (REFTEL) TOLD EMBOFF THAT ANY NATO DATA WOULD SUFFICE AS LONG AS THEY WERE "ACCURATE.") CONTINUING, HE QUICKLY ADDED THAT NATO PROBABLY DID NOT CONSIDER EASTERN DATA ACCURATE EITHER, AND THEREFORE, EXAMINATION OF THE METHODS USED TO ARRIVE AT THE FIGURES TABLED BY BOTH SIDES IS OF IMPORTANCE WHEN TALKS RESUME IN VIENNA.
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2. SUCH ANALYSIS OF DATA WAS A USEFUL APPROACH IN THE COMING SESSION, KRASULIN THOUGHT, SINCE DIFFERENT CALCULATIONS WERE USED BY EASTERN AND WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. IT WAS, KRASULIN ARGUED, THESE DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH WHICH HAVE PRODUCED THE NUMERICAL

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DISPARITIES WHICH NATO CLAIMS EXIST. NATO MUST REALIZE, HE SAID, THAT IT HAS MANY CIVILIANS WORKING IN POSITIONS WHICH IN EASTERN COUNTRIES ARE FILLED BY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL. EMBOFF DOUBTED THAT SUCH A FACTOR COULD ACCOUNT FOR THE LARGE DIFFERENCES BUT KARSULIN PERSISTED THAT IT DID AND THAT DATA DISCUSSIONS WOULD REVEAL THAT NO TRUE DISPARITY EXISTS.

3. COMMENT: KRASULIN, WHO IS A BUREAUCRAT WHO MEASURES HIS PHRASES WITH CARE, WAS CLEARLY LOOKING FOR DATA DISCUSSION TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT SESSION. HE MADE HIS POINT ABOUT THE NATO DATA NOT BEING IN LINE WITH EASTERN CALCULATIONS BUT DID NOT SUGGEST THAT THE EAST WOULD LOOK FOR MORE OR DIFFERENT FIGURES BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ANALYSIS.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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